

Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 22, 2022

TO: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
City Council

FROM: Raymond A. Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: **CT DEEP's Sustainable Material Management Grant Program – Mayor
Authorization to Execute**

The Board of Public Works voted at its April 21, 2022 meeting to recommend City Council take the following action:

Authorize the Mayor or acting Mayor to sign any and all documents associated with CT DEEP's Sustainable Material Management Grant Program to establish a food organic waste pilot program in a section of the City.

The Board took this action based on the information provided at the meeting by representatives of NVCOG and in part information contained within the attached memorandums. As indicated to the Board of Public Works, the Sustainable Material Management Grant Program would establish an organic waste pilot program. The pilot program would provide funding for a period of one year and consist of the collection, separation and transportation of organic waste at one City collection route (approx. 600-650 residents).

A major component of the program will be a public outreach/education program, which NVCOG will provide for residents in partnership with Bristol. The grant will include program planning and in general will consist of residents separating food waste into a separate colored bag that will be disposed of and collected along with "regular rubbish" in the existing supplied City container. The DPW rubbish truck will transport the combined "regular" and organic waste to a separation facility where the organic will be transported for additional processing and the "regular" rubbish will be disposed of at Covanta.

In addition to the collection of organic waste, the DPW has been notified that the pilot program should include a unit-based pricing component for "regular" rubbish in order to be competitive for grant funding. Unit-based pricing of solid waste consists of limiting the number of waste bags provided to residents to shift the existing culture/practice of unlimited waste disposal to sustainable waste habits. The bags would be free during the pilot year associated with this grant; should the City continue the program after the grant period expires the City would price the bags to

accommodate the hauling fees or a portion thereof. Since bags will be provided free to residents as part of the grant program residents will not actually incur additional rubbish disposal costs.

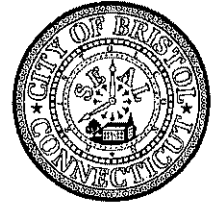
CT DEEP is promoting unit based pricing concept of rubbish to shifts control to residents by giving them the ability to reduce the amount of waste they produce and therefore the number of bags they need. CT DEEP, Waste Zero, and the Connecticut Coalition of Sustainable Materials Management have indicated that they have conducted extensive research to determine that unit-based pricing reduces solid waste generation

The Board of Public Works has expressed concerns associated with establishing organic waste collection and a rubbish unit-based pricing system. NVCOG has stated that they are committed to working with Bristol to design a program that works for the municipality and its residents, while addressing the impending waste challenges. It is my understanding that the Board recognized the solid waste crisis in Connecticut and CT DEEP's strong encouragement of the program.

Ultimately, the Board voted to move forward and it is my belief that members look at the grant as an opportunity to determine support for a long-term program (and in fact, this may be required in the future) and an opportunity to determine both benefits and challenges (including cost and savings).

Copies of the previous memorandums to the Board of Public Works on this item are attached for reference purposes.

Feel free to contact me with any questions / concerns at 860-584-6125.



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 18, 2022
TO: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
Board of Public Works
FROM: Raymond A. Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works
RE: Organic Food Waste Collection – DEEP Grant Opportunity

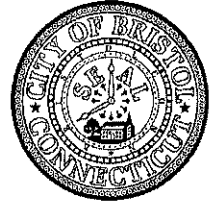
As indicated to the Board of Public Works in September 2021 CT DEEP is accepting grant applications for municipalities to initiate an organic waste collection program. A summary of the grant and pertinent information is provided in the attached September 2022 memorandum.

At the time of the September review, the Board of Public Works voted **NOT** to approve/ move forward with the submittal of a grant application that would potentially fund a pilot collection program of organic waste in a portion/ section of the City.

As reported back in September, CTDEEP is encouraging the City to submit an application. Since the Board's September action CTDEEP and NVCOG continue to strongly encourage the City to submit a grant application. The information summarized in the September 2022 memorandum has not substantially changed, however the following items/information may be pertinent to BPW action:

1. CTDEEP is strongly encouraging municipalities to participate in a grant to fund a pilot collection program of organic waste. The grant provides 100% funding of City organic waste collection/processing cost for a period of one year. With that said, the grant is competitive and it is my understanding that current application funding requests exceed the stated CT DEEP available funds. It should also be noted that although the City may not be awarded a grant (if submitted) multiply municipalities will receive grant funding of a pilot organic waste programs and it is believed that the State will ultimately require the City to separate food organics.
2. The grant only provides funding for a period of one year and without grant funding City cost will need to increase to continue an organic waste program.
3. The City through BRFFOC recently submitted a grant application to fund food/organic waste collection at City schools. Referenced grant is pending CTDEEP review.

City of Bristol
Public Work Department
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010
www.bristolct.gov

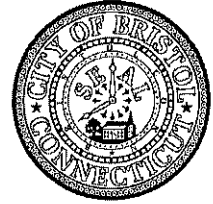


Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

4. COVANTA's application to CTDEEP to process medical waste in Bristol has resulted in serious concerns from the community associated with COVANTA's air quality / size of operation. Initiating an organic waste program provides the City an opportunity to reduce the City's solid waste processed by COVANTA.
5. Implementing a food organic waste program will require a site that the City will transport all rubbish to for separation (food organic waste/ "regular rubbish). The location of a required separation site is unknown at this time. One potential location would be our transfer station, however odors may/ will be concern. A site located out of the City limits will have benefits, although processing/separating waste outside of the City limits would require additional travel and increase labor, fuel and equipment cost and may require redesign of City collection routes.
6. The grant application for organic waste is for a pilot program only and if awarded will be implemented in a designated/section of the City only (not City wide). Map of existing rubbish routes attached.

I would state that one of the primary concerns the BPW indicated in opposition to moving forward with a grant application to collect / process organic waste in September 2022 was the Board's concerns associates the need for Bristol residents to separate food/organic waste. I believe that the concern remains, however CTDEEP and NVOG staff will provide a community education. I would also state that the grant application submittal would be the first step, therefore questions remains at this time. If awarded the implementation process will be developed to establish the City route to initiate the pilot program, location of a rubbish/organic separation site, transportation of separated rubbish and food/organic waste along with the impact if/any to BRFFOC's Covanta existing contract.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 860-584-6113.



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 7, 2021

TO: Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Board of Public Works

FROM: Raymond A. Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: Food Waste Collection / Composting Program

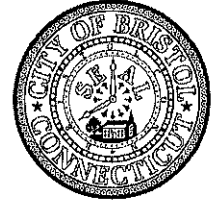
The CT DEEP has contacted the DPW through NVCOG regarding a grant to perform a pilot program implementing a residential food waste collection and composting program. Information received to date regarding the program is preliminary and based on initial discussions with the CT DEEP. However, the program is similar to a grant recently received by the City Meriden.

The Meriden grant has not started. Once begun, it will consist of the collection residential food waste for a four-month period. Participating residents (requested to volunteer) will be offered to segregated food waste. Residents who participate will be required to place all food waste in designated colored bags (pink). They will continue to place the food waste along with their typical solid waste in the City supplied barrel (single stream). There will NOT be a separate City collection for food waste.

City solid waste barrels will continue to be collected curbside by the City. However, in the pilot test area City collection trucks will not dispose of the waste directly at Covanta. During the test pilot program City trucks will dispose of solid waste at a regional facility where the food waste bags will be separated (pink food waste bags taken out). The food waste bags (pink) will be sent to a regional food compost facility and the remaining waste will be sent to Covanta.

Due to its proximity to Covanta, CT DEEP has indicated that Bristol may be a desirable location for a future solid waste separation and food composting site. Some of the potential concerns would be odors and compliance with City zoning requirements. The food composting operation consists of mixing food waste with wood chips, therefore it may provide an additional market for wood debris chips generated at our transfer station from processing woody debris. Although segregation of food waste (pink) bags will occur manually during the pilot program the CT DEEP has identified equipment capable of automatically separating color bags using optical scanners.

City of Bristol
Public Work Department
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010
www.bristolct.gov



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

Participating in the pilot program will require participating residents (volunteering) to separate their food waste and City collection trucks being required to dispose of solid waste at regional facility. Although stated that residents will volunteer, I would say that that CT DEEP did use the term “encourage” to volunteer. DPW currently has 30 rubbish routes; the pilot program will be available to only a portion of the City’s routes. Since the number of collections per day varies, pilot program areas will be selected to coincide with low-collection days (Thursday’s downtown and Tuesday’s Redstone Hill Road routes) in order to compensate for additional hauling time.

The purpose of the CT DEEP’s pilot program is to obtain data on the feasibility of implementing food composting in the state. The State estimates that approximately 20-25 of the waste stream is attributed to food waste. The current market rate for solid waste disposal is approximately \$92/ton. The City’s existing Covanta disposal contract cost through BRFFOC is \$68.40/ton and will remain in place until 2034 (adjusted for CPI).

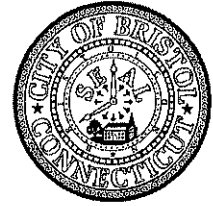
I have discussed the pilot program with BRFFOC’s administrator who has indicated that there are other communities outside Connecticut that have food waste programs or have performed pilot programs and therefore questions the value of collecting data. I personally have concerns with implementing a food compost program. There are several complex issues that must be considered such as participation rate of residents, impact to existing rubbish routes, location of compost serration facility and impact to existing BRFFOC contract.

It is imperative that food composting does not impact the City’s existing Covanta contract; however, CT DEEP’s food composting initiate is not going away. Along with pay as you throw it is the cornerstone of the State’s solid waste management program. Although I may agree with our BRFFOC administrator that the data is available on residential food composting I do believe that participating in a pilot program will allow the City to obtain specific Bristol data and more importantly provide the City an opportunity to communicate solid waste challenges directly with Bristol residents in addition to being part of the State’s solid waste policy discussion.

Due to the need of additional information I am not requesting authorization for DPW to participate in a food waste collection / composting pilot program. However, I am requesting the following BPW action to pursue:

Authorize the Director of Public to pursue participating in a food waste collection/ compost pilot program subject to final approval by the Board of Public Works.

City of Bristol
Public Work Department
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010
www.bristolct.gov



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

Please feel free to contact me with any question at 860-584-6113.

City of Bristol
Public Work Department
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010
www.bristolct.gov